



Family Violence

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NEWSLETTER

Volume V, Winter 1992



FAMILY VIOLENCE POLICE TRAINERS COURSE OCT 21-23, 1992

Second Annual Police Trainers' Course on Family Violence Held in Alberta

October 21 - 23, 1992 - the second annual police trainers' course on family violence was held at the Alberta Solicitor General's Staff College in Edmonton. The delegates attending the course came from municipal police services and the RCMP throughout Alberta. A complete list of participants, pictured above, is shown on page 2 of this publication).

The family violence policing initiatives, introduced in October 1990 by the Department of the Solicitor General, identified training of police members as one of the critical factors in successfully addressing the issue of family violence. Police are the only 24-hour, immediate service that provides intervention in family violence disputes. As it is estimated that many victims of

family violence are abused an average of 35 times before they ask for police intervention, it is imperative that police respond quickly and effectively when that cry for help does come.

The first step in providing effective police training is "training the trainers". Over the course of three days, police trainers received information on a number of areas, including an Aboriginal perspective on family violence, how to best conduct training on a sensitive issue such as family violence, the Solicitor General's guidelines (see subsequent article), dynamics of family violence, myths, statistics, and profiles of abusers/victims.

A number of the presentations were given with the kind assistance of Heather Richards (Executive Director, Strathcona Shelter Society), Maggie Hodgson (Executive Director, Nechi Institute), Peter Teasdale and Martin Elton (Attorney General).

The last day began on an especially powerful note with a presentation from 'Diane', a survivor of spousal abuse, who spoke frankly and courageously of her own experience. Many spoke of how this presentation personalized the issue for them and helped them to understand how critical it is that they, as police, gain an understanding of the victim's viewpoint. Some of the comments received about Diane's presentation - "... answered a lot of questions that came to mind as a police officer", "... a gripping presentation", "... an excellent resource person who helps pull things together".

With the success of the previous year's intensive family violence training programs undertaken by many police services, the Department looks forward to seeing a training strategy being put in place by police services throughout Alberta.





Court Docket - Tough New Guidelines

Handed Down by the Alberta Court of Appeal

The Court of Appeal handed down sentencing guidelines on May 14, 1992 relating to three cases of wife assault, BROWN, HIGHWAY and UMPHERVILLE, sending a strong message to repeat offenders convicted of spousal abuse. In deciding the three cases, the court increased one man's \$500 fine to 18 months in jail; a second man was given two years less a day and the third man would have had his 18-month sentence increased to four years had the Crown decided to give the required notice.

In taking this strong stand on sentencing, the court reiterated the Supreme Court of Canada's acknowledgement two years ago that "No man has a right to abuse any woman under any circumstances". In the reasons for judgement of the court, it was stated that the starting point should be the sentence that would be appropriate if the victim of the assault were not in a relationship of trust with the accused.

While the court acknowledged that repeat wife beating could not solely be solved by sentencing policy, it stated - "But when such cases do result in prosecution and conviction, then the courts do have an opportunity, by their sentencing policy, to denounce wife-beating in clear terms and to attempt to deter its recurrence on the part of the accused man and its recurrence on the part of other men".

In a September 28, 1992 case, R. v. DUROCHER, re-emphasizing these guidelines, the need to impose serious penalties for breach of recognizance charges in wife assault cases was addressed. The Crown appealed a sentence of 9 months' imprisonment for aggravated assault and 3 months' consecutive for

breach of recognizance. The Court of Appeal stated that the sentences appealed from did not adequately denounce the accused's wife assault and did not comply with the guidelines set out in Brown, Highway and Umpherville. As a result, in the case of the aggravated assault, it was their view that a sentence of three years was called for. The sentence for breach of recognizance was increased to six months consecutive to mark, as the court stated, "the added seriousness of the accused's disregard for the order of the court forbidding him from having contact with the complainant".

Family Violence "Train the Trainers" Course" List of Attendees (pictured on front page):

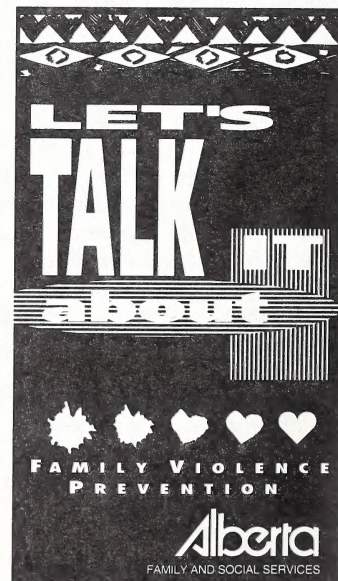
BAKER, Brent (Red Deer RCMP)
BEDFORD, Rob (Cardston RCMP)
BELYEA, Brian (Gr. Pr. RCMP)
CARROLL, Wayne ("K" Div. RCMP)
CHIEF MOON, T. (Blood Tribe Pol.)
CLARK, Gary (Taber Police)
DAY CHIEF, Andrew (Blood Tr. Pol.)
DUNCAN, Brenda (Calgary Police)
DUNCAN, Keith (Leth. Police)
FARNSWORTH, C. (Mannville RCMP)
FEDORUK, M. (Redwater RCMP)
GARDYPIE, James (Louis Bull Pol.)
GATTAFONI, C. (Bonnyville RCMP)
GRIFFITHS, John (Edson RCMP)
GURR, Jerry (Coaldale Police)
HAYDEN, Chris (Edmonton Police)
HOBSON, Richard (Ft. Sask. RCMP)
IRVIN, A. (Lac La Biche RCMP)
JUCHLI, Shelley (Edmonton Police)
LESLIE, Gary (Lacombe Police)
LIPINSKI, Norm (Edmonton Police)
MACKINNON, A. (Rd. Dr. City RCMP)
MALONE, Karen (Edmonton Police)
MACKAY, Ken (Edmonton Police)
MCLAUGHLIN, R. (Hg. Level RCMP)
MILNE, Doug (Ft. McMurray RCMP)
MOUNCE, Sandra (Sh. Park RCMP)
NYSZCZYK, Rick (Sh. Park RCMP)
PATTON, Bill ("K" Div. RCMP)
POTTINGER, N. (Hobbema RCMP)
ROLFSON, Kent (Leth. Police)
SANDERSON, Ian (Gr. Pr. RCMP)
WITBECK, Leray (Edmonton Police)
YOUNG, Robert (Claresholm RCMP)

New Format Planned For Newsletter

We're changing! In future editions of the Family Violence Newsletter, which will be issued on a biannual basis, you will see articles relating to yet another side of the department. The Correctional Services Division, which introduced family violence initiatives on May 27, 1992 in the areas of perpetrator programs, female offender programs and correctional staff education, will join in contributing to subsequent issues of the Family Violence Newsletter. In view of this new partnership, we're looking for your ideas on a new name for the newsletter. Fax your suggestions to:

Manager, Family Violence & Crime
Prevention
Law Enforcement Division
Fax: 427-5916

Thanks for your participation.





Publications Request

DATE: _____

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CITY/TOWN	POSTAL CODE
PLEASE DIRECT INQUIRIES TO (Contact Name)	TELEPHONE NUMBER

QTY. REQ'D.	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION
	Booklet	Victims of Family Violence - Information and Rights
	Booklet	Family Violence - A Guide For Police Officers (For police service members - limited supply)
	Poster	Family Violence is a Crime (1991) (Mother and Child Poster)
	Poster	Stop Family Violence Now! (1992) ("Handcuff" Poster)
	Poster	Family Violence - It's A Crime - Poster Series (1993) (Spousal Abuse and Effect on Children - 3 Posters)

Note: There is no charge for any of these materials.


Forward completed request to:

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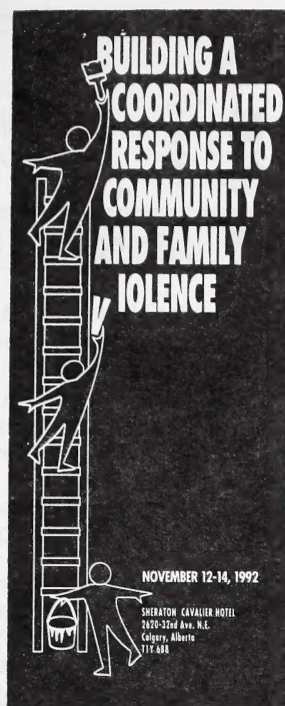
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On November 12-14, 1992, a conference, *"Building a Coordinated Response to Community and Family Violence"*, was held in Calgary. The conference was supported and organized under the auspices of the City of Calgary, Alberta Family and Social Services, the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters and the Calgary Coalition on Family Violence. The predominant themes of the conference were:

- building working relationships between funders and service providers,
- coordinating a community response to violence, and
- providing practical information on community and family violence to a wide variety of professionals.

The conference featured a number of presentations by well-known speakers in the area of family violence, including Peter Jaffe and Linda McLeod. Sessions ranged from sessions on the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project of Duluth, Minnesota, to Family Violence Training of Alberta Police Officers. A cassette order form, allowing you to order taped

sessions, can be obtained by telephoning or faxing conference organizers at 444-5117.

Examples of some of the sessions held include:

- Designing and Implementing a Coordinated Response to Assault
- Effective Intervention for Women Who are Battered
- Children Who Witness Family Violence
- The Dynamics of Elder Abuse
- Role of the Criminal Justice System in Family Violence
- A Multi-Family Approach to Violence in the Rural Family
- Healing Circles

Edmonton Family Violence Follow-Up Program A Success

"It sends out an important message to victims that there's help and support available in the community. We must break the cycle of violence."

- Police Chief Doug McNally

A six-month pilot project announced by Chief Doug McNally and Edmonton Mayor Jan Reimer in December 1991 to provide follow-up services by police and city social workers in family violence cases was deemed a success and will be expanded. The demonstration project involved one social worker and a police member visiting northeast Edmonton families after an incident had been reported to the police. That area of the City was chosen as it accounts for 40 percent of all family violence incidents in Edmonton.

Acting Det. Jack Tetz oversaw the piloting of the program and stated that it was particularly effective in dealing with some difficult cases. The project was also credited with cutting down the number of times that police were called back to homes with ongoing problems. Edmonton City Council has now approved the formation of a second team.

Azimuth Theatre Association Announces New Touring Season

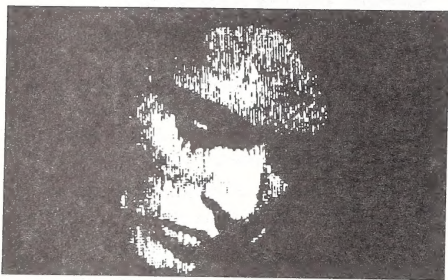
Azimuth Theatre has fast become provincially recognized for its powerful social dramas. Since its formation, they have created and toured a number of research-based dramas, including two relating to family violence - *Under Broken Wings* (family violence, 1992) and *Maelstrom* (abusive males, 1991).

As the second part of their 1992-93 touring season, Azimuth is offering *Naked Lies*, a drama about human reproduction, sexuality and personal responsibility. The community performances are followed by a panel discussion which includes local resource agency representatives. For more information, contact: Deborah Hurford-Simcoe or Binaifer Kapadia 448-9165

Solicitor General Family Violence Program Guidelines for Police

The following guidelines were issued to all Alberta police services for the handling of family violence incidents:

1. Police shall assign the same priority to calls involving incidents of family violence as to any call where the safety of a person is being threatened.
2. During the course of their investigation, police shall interview the complainant separate from the alleged abuser.
3. A charge shall be laid when the police officers have reasonable and probable grounds to believe an offence has occurred. This decision should not be dependent on the complainant's wishes.
4. When a charge has been laid, police shall endeavour to obtain a signed written statement from the complainant, as well as medical reports and photographs of injuries when sufficient injury is evident.
5. Police shall offer assistance to the complainant in arranging medical attention, transportation to a safe place, and referrals to legal and community services.
6. Police shall complete and file a report on all incidents of family violence, regardless of what action was taken.
7. Police shall make telephone contact with the complainant within one week after responding to a call to ensure the complainant's safety and to answer any questions regarding court proceedings.
8. On a quarterly basis, police shall submit a Family Violence Report to the Department of the Solicitor General.
9. Police shall receive special training on family violence.



"Family Violence Hurts Everyone" is the message in the campaign against family violence by the Edmonton Council Against Family Violence. Computer generated advertising sheets are available for use on mailing enveloped, for reproduction in newsletters, etc. Versions in a number of languages including English, Vietnamese, Chinese, Arabian, Spanish, French, Punjabi and Polish have been developed. For more information on the advertising sheets, contact:

Maria David-Evans
 Manager of Operations
 Edmonton Community and Family Services
 5th Floor, Centennial Library
 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square
 Edmonton Ab T5J 2V4
 Phone: 496-5808 Fax: 428-4556

La violence familiale fait mal à tout le monde



¡Familia violen herida todos!



Przemoc w rodzinie niszczy wszystko



Family Violence Hurts Everyone



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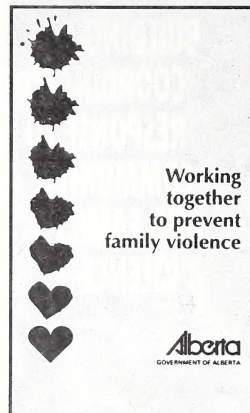
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New Publication Available

"Working together to prevent family violence" is a new publication which describes Alberta's Framework for Action on Family Violence and highlights government and community initiatives to address this serious social and criminal problem.

For more information, contact the Office for the Prevention of Family Violence at 422-5916.

This newsletter is published by the Law Enforcement Division of the Department of Justice.

In the interest of providing as broad a base of information as possible, the newsletter welcomes the participation of all police services.

Articles should be submitted to the Editor, Law Enforcement Division, Department of Justice, 10th Floor, John E. Brownlee Building, 10365 - 97 Street, Edmonton, Ab T5J 3W7.

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views or policies of the Law Enforcement Division, Department of Justice. The Editor reserves the right to use, in whole or in part, any article submitted for publication. Authors' names will be published unless accompanied by a request to withhold credit.

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